

Socialist Appeal

Vol. II - No. 14. Saturday, April 2, 1938. Published every week by the SOCIALIST APPEAL PUBLISHING ASS'N. at 116 University Place, New York, N. Y.

Bravo Minneapolis!

The Central Labor Union of Minneapolis, representing fifty thousand trade unionists, has blazed a trail for militant action by the entire labor movement against the war plans of the imperialist government in Washington.

In a resolution, published in full in this issue, the militant workers organized in the C.L.U. go on record as opposed to any war launched by the government, thereby recognizing that such a war will be fought, not in the interests of the toilers, but in the interests of the exploiters.

Bravo, Minneapolis!

The Gainesville Speech

Roosevelt, the silver-tongued demagogue, is still in excellent form. In no country has capitalism produced a more astute and skillful representative, a more able defender, than the present incumbent of the White House.

In a speech at Gainesville, Georgia, on March 23, Roosevelt delivered a wordy lashing to the "feudal" overlords of the industrial south who keep wages down to the barest starvation levels and fight tooth and nail every attempt made by the workers to better their lot.

For Roosevelt, however, the horribly depressed living standards of workers in the industrial south are a product, not of capitalism, but of feudalism. Said he: "To those in and out of public office who still believe in the feudal system—"

This is Roosevelt's value to the capitalist class: that he is able, with all the

skill of an accomplished demagogue, to represent the exploitation and sufferings of the workers as the product of an alien "feudal" growth within the body politic, as something extraneous to capitalism, and not, in reality, a product of capitalism itself.

Since Roosevelt pretends to be so deeply concerned for the welfare of workers in the "feudal" South, it is also pertinent to ask why he uttered not one word in favor of the anti-lynching bill when that measure was being wrecked by the filibuster of the Southern Democrats.

The Gainesville speech was hailed by the "democratic" and "liberal" bourgeois press and—as was only to be expected—by the Stalinist Daily Worker, which has its own theory of "good" and "bad" capitalists, enlightened exploiters and "economic royalists."

But—and this is the nub of the question—capitalism in the era of its decline cannot be reformed to yield a better living and more freedom for the workers. On the contrary, living standards must be more and more depressed, freedom (for the workers) more and more curtailed.

Those who defend capitalism and deceive the workers as to the real cause of their sufferings are obstacles along the road of social progress and enemies of the working class. In this category are included Roosevelt and his Stalinist supporters.

Stalinist Gangsterism

In last week's issue of the Socialist Appeal we carried an account of the hoodlum tactics employed by the Stalinists in their attempt to break up the anti-Nazi demonstration organized by the Socialist Workers Party and the Young People's Socialist League in New York's East Side on Sunday, March 20.

At the noon hour, on Wednesday March 23, an organized gang of Communist Party rowdies swooped down on an open-air rally our party was holding in New York's garment center at 38th St. and Eighth Avenue. They succeeded in disrupting that meeting. On the evening of the same day, a squad of some two to three hundred C.P. stalwarts gathered at the doors of Palm Manor, on Pitkin Avenue, in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, shouting "Boycott the Meeting of the Trotsky-Fascists."

It goes without saying that the S.W.P. and the Y.P.S.L. are preparing to meet this increasingly menacing tactic of the Kremlin Butcher's American strong-arm men in the manner that it merits. No threats, no acts of G.P.U. terrorism will prevent us from going through with our revolutionary propaganda against the coming imperialist war, our fight against Fascism or our exposure of the counter-revolutionary frame-ups in Russia.

Now, we learn from reliable sources that word is being passed around in the Fur Market to use knives against Trotskyists.

We warn the gentlemen of the Communist Party's Central Committee that we will invite members of civil liberties associations to all our meetings in the future. Furthermore, we warn them that for every act of violence or hoodlumism perpetrated against our members by their hired thugs and hoodlums, the Stalinist Central Committee, with Mr. Earl Browder at its head, will be held directly responsible.

The thirty or forty faithful present listened silently.

A comrade, advanced in years and well-known in the local labor movement, had hardly entered the hall when she was set upon by a local C.P. zealot and shoved back toward the door. She denounced loudly such police methods, and again those present listened silently. After her departure a sentinel sat with the back of his chair against the door to guard against those suspected of heretical political tendencies.

That this meeting is a replica of similar meetings held by the C.P. throughout the U.S. is certain. Fashioned after the Moscow judicial pattern, all that was lacking were the defendants and their "confessions." But the C.P. could not permit the accused the elementary right of self-defense. Questions would be asked that could not be answered, the sincere but duped rank-and-file Stalinists would be exposed to the real nature and defense of the 4th Internationalists.

Later, four members of the Lynn S.W.P. entered the hall. This time, Green had already begun his harangue but he greeted the late comers with: "and now we are confronted with a wholesale invasion." A comrade asked: "Isn't this a public meeting?" Green replied that it was a meeting only for members of the C.P., their friends, and guests. A comrade asked: "Is this a sample of your democracy?" "Yes, this is a sample of our democracy," was the answer.

Woman Pushed Around

Lynn Gets Taste of 'Democracy' At Meeting On Moscow Frame-ups

LYNN, Mass.—The Communist Party of Lynn held a very special kind of a meeting Monday night, March 21. Their leaflets urged the reader to hear about "The Moscow Trials," the wrecking, Fascist career of the Trotskyites, and particularly "the spying and treacherous activities of a handful of Lynn Trotskyites."

Other than this leaflet there was apparently no attempt to publicize this meeting, and distribution of the leaflet was by no means widespread. It was not until the very night of the meeting that a comrade was told by a member of the Workmen's Circle of Lynn about the meeting. From all indications, only a selected, handpicked audience was desired.

Stalinist "Democracy"

Since Trotskyism in general, and the Socialist Workers Party of Lynn in particular, were to be attacked with the familiar, incredible charges, the accused at least intended to be present at the trial. A sympathizer of the Lynn S.W.P. attempted to

attend the meeting. Recognized or suspected of sympathy with the S.W.P. he was met at the door by the prosecuting attorney of the evening, one Jack Green, local C.P. Organizer, and told that Trotskyites were not wanted at this meeting. Our sympathizer replied that he was neither a Trotskyite nor a member of any working class organization, but that he was interested in the "Moscow Trials" and wished to hear all sides. The prosecuting attorney repeated, "We prefer that you leave."

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The Only War To End War!



A LETTER FROM CHINA

The author of the following letter, a leading member of the Communist League of China (Fourth Internationalists), was released from a Kuomintang prison in Nanking on November 25, 1937, on the eve of the Japanese occupation of the city, and since has traveled extensively through China observing the situation produced by the war. He is therefore well qualified to interpret the Chinese situation to revolutionists abroad.

Dear Comrades: It would take many pages to write the hard but interesting story of my life during the past ten months and it is more important I write something about the great events now happening in China.

The Kuomintang government is not nearly so determined in waging war against the Japanese imperialists as it was at the beginning. Faced with a dilemma aptly expressed by Wu Ting-chang, minister of industry, who declared that "if we make peace there will be great internal disturbances, while if we go to war a great defeat will result," the government, or, more correctly, the Chiang Kai-shek clique, chose the more risky alternative of war.

Chiang Kai-shek, of course, is more astute and more realistic than Sun Fo. Since as yet "the time has not ripened for peace" with the Japanese imperialists (his own words), he will not openly break relations with the U.S.S.R. Rather, he is quite "polite" toward the "Communists."

Chiang and the U.S.S.R. At the beginning of the war, Chiang Kai-shek overestimated the support he would receive from Great Britain and misunderstood the role of the Soviet Union under the Stalin regime.

A few days before I left Hankow, i.e., in the latter half of January, a "leftward" movement was under way. The Sixth Department of the Military Affairs Commission (exclusively controlled by the C.C. Group, which in turn controls the mass movement) was "dissolved" and a new "political bureau" (Tsing Shi-pu) was formed to replace it. As director of this bureau, Chiang Kai-shek appointed his own right-hand man, General Chen Chen. The three vice-heads are Chou En-lai, the "Communist" leader; Gen. Huang Chi-hsiang, leader of the Third Party (a populist political grouping—Ed.); and Chang Li-sun, former chairman of the organization department of the Kuomintang and a close friend of Chen Li-fu, leader of the C.C. Group.

All the Kuomintang cliques, divided into three departments: (1) military training, with Gen. Ho Chang-han, Blueshirts leader as its head; (2) mass movement, headed by Gen. Huang Chi-hsiang; (3) propaganda, headed by Kuo Mu-juo, a famous Chinese Communist poet, known as the "Romain Rolland of China."

The creation of these organs represents "left" trickery by means of which Chiang Kai-shek aims to deceive and cheat the Soviet bureaucrats and the Chinese masses. He seeks to get more material support from the U.S.S.R., but as far as I know the Soviet Government has done nothing more than sell China 64 airplanes on credit!

The peace negotiations were actually in progress. The Sixth Department of the Military Affairs Commission suppressed all mass organizations. At the beginning of December martial law was proclaimed and all meetings and demonstrations were prohibited.

Chiang Kai-shek, using finance minister H. H. Kung as his tool, tried to persuade Pai Chung-hsi to propose acceptance of Japan's terms. But Pai, just as cunning as Chiang, declined to play this role, for then the Kwangsi clique which he leads would have lost the powerful weapon which it has previously employed against Chiang (Pai Chung-hsi, leader of the Kwangsi clique of generals, has since 1927 been a bitter opponent of Chiang Kai-shek and has always used his own pretended anti-Japanese attitude as a weapon against Chiang. With anti-Japanese slogans, he revolted against Chiang in the summer of 1936. Now he is commanding his own armies against the Japanese in Central China and is in apparent "unity" with his old rival—Ed.)

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The new "political bureau" was

Navy Maneuvers Proceed Under Closest Secrecy

(Continued from page 1) directed against them. Thus Rear-Admiral Kiyoshi Noda, chief of the Japanese information bureau, asserted very bluntly on March 24, according to a United Press dispatch from Tokyo, that the United States naval expansion program, "of which Japan is obviously an object," is unnecessary unless the American government contemplates overseas operations.

"If," this spokesman of Japanese imperialism went on to say, "America is not thinking of overseas operations, she would not need a fleet of the size contemplated in the Vinson Bill. I cannot think otherwise but that Japan is the object of those overseas operations." Modifying this statement, he added that "at least Japan must be one of America's objectives, but not necessarily the only one."

Just as the Japanese imperialists have no doubt that Roosevelt's big navy program is directed first of all against them, so the American imperialists, too, are convinced that Japan will be the enemy in the coming war.

Reporting the situation which has arisen on the Hawaiian island of Oahu following inauguration of the Pacific War games, the New York Times correspondent at Honolulu wrote on March 16:

"While the fleet is attacking Oahu this month citizens may ponder on what conditions would be in the city were hostilities actually under way. The army knows just what it would be necessary to do. Numbers of aliens are under suspicion because their sympathies are with the land of their birth, Japan. It is pretty well established that the army has picked out the sites for its prison camps, should a war occur, and that the army intelligence service has a good idea of those who would go into those camps...."

"While army officers characterize the procedure as routine and say that it has occurred many times before, it is known that a check was made last week on young R.O.T.C. students at the University of Hawaii to learn whether they had been expatriated. Those who had taken the step were asked to produce documentary evidence to that effect...."

"Both army and navy here have become publicity shy. No news, outside of routine personal matters... is given out by anyone but the authorized chiefs of intelligence of both services. Even deaths are carefully investigated before details are made public."

Stalin's Purge Reaches Polar Expedition Heroes

(Continued from page 1) The fact that he has been decorated as a "hero of the Soviet Union," and that he has been prominent among those who have joined in defaming the frame-up victims of Stalin's murder regime whenever ordered to do so, will not save him.

Stalin constantly needs new "heroes" for use in distracting the attention of the Soviet proletariat from the woes visited upon them by the genial leader's regime. It may well be that Papanin, who earned his fame and title to hero by staying nine months on a drifting ice-floe, is slated for Schmidt's job. But in order to effect the shake-up smoothly, it is necessary to cover Schmidt with totalitarian mud, to defame him, to railroad him out of view.

Charges Will Mount The official denunciation of Schmidt is only a beginning especially if he is to be made the center of a public "trial." As the mechanism of the G.P.U. is geared to the new frame-up—whose aim will be, first of all, to saddle Schmidt and his colleagues with all blame for deficiencies in the fulfillment of So-

viet polar plans (which everyone was hitherto led to believe were going fine, incidentally)—it will probably be "discovered" that Stalin's intended victims were responsible for much more than imperiling Soviet icebreakers. It may be "proved" that Schmidt met Trotsky at the North Pole, or communicated with him by radio, and that together these "Trotskyite wreckers" plotted to stir up the polar bears against Stalin's regime, to put the seasons out of joint, and remove the earth from its axis.

Fantastic—So What? Fantastic inventions? But what else have we been treated to in Stalin's "trials"? With the denunciation of Otto Schmidt came the announcement from Moscow that 19 have been shot in Soviet Kazakhstan after a "secret treason trial," among the victims being U. Kulumbetov, former president of that republic.

It is high time for organized labor throughout the world to raise its voice in a thunderous protest against the ever-growing crimes of Stalin's bestial, blood-spattered dictatorship.

N.Y. Unemployed Protest La Guardia Relief Slash

(Continued from page 1) criticism of LaGuardia. They even placed a taboo on anti-sales tax slogans. After the picketing the demonstration moved to Foley Square to hear the report of the delegation. While awaiting the delegates, one of the leaders of the Alliance shouted slogans through a loud speaker which the crowd took up and echoed back. Standing in a drizzling rain, wet to the skin, having just received their checks with a 10 per cent cut, the crowd responded enthusiastically to every suggestion of militancy coming from the leadership. But these were few and far between. Finally the loud speaker squawked "Now let us sing My Country 'Tis of Thee."

And led by those super-patriots the Stalinists, some of the half-starved, poorly-clad, soaking wet pickets chanted the patriotic anthem.

Speakers Stall Then came the speakers. Oscar Fuss, vice-president of the Alliance, reported enthusiastically on some "fair words" received from the master of demagoguery, President Roosevelt. Jerry Benton reported for the delegation to the Mayor. Not by one word did he intimate that the Mayor had walked out on the delegation.

He read the Mayor's propaganda release, leaving the impression that the delegation had met the Mayor and that this was the answer. Stripped of its propaganda verbiage, the Mayor's release was a flat refusal to rescind the cut unless the taxes, including additional sales taxes proposed by him, were put into effect.

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Neither did the Mayor state in his release that the City has sufficient funds in hand to continue full relief payments for several months. Benton had nothing to say about this either.

No criticism of LaGuardia. Deflect the anger of the unemployed into taxation disputes. Hand-out propaganda for Roosevelt and LaGuardia. That's the Stalinist line of the Workers Alliance leaders in the face of the starvation of the unemployed.

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